WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An antibody mutant of a species-dependent antibody, which antibody mutant comprises an amino acid substitution in a hypervariable region of the species-dependent antibody and has a binding affinity for an antigen from a nonhuman mammal which is at least about 10 fold stronger than the binding affinity of the species-dependent antibody for said antigen.
- 2. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the species-dependent antibody binds specifically to the human homologue of said antigen.
- 3. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the antibody mutant is to be administered to a nonhuman mammal in preclinical studies.
- 4. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the nonhuman mammal is a primate.
- 5. The antibody mutant of claim 4 wherein the nonhuman primate is selected from the group consisting of rhesus, cynomolgus, baboon, chimpanzee and macaque.
- 6. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein only one hypervariable region residue of the species-dependent antibody has been substituted.
- 7. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein two to ten hypervariable region residues of the species-dependent antibody have been substituted.
- 8. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the antibody mutant has a binding affinity for said antigen from the nonhuman mammal which is at least about 20 fold stronger than the binding affinity of the species-dependent antibody for said antigen.
- 9. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the antibody mutant has a binding affinity for said antigen from the nonhuman mammal which is at least about 50 fold stronger than the binding affinity of the species-dependent antibody for said antigen.

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- 10. The antibody mutant of claim 1 further comprising an amino acid substitution in a framework region of said species-dependent antibody.
- 11. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the species-dependent antibody is a humanized antibody.
- 12. The antibody mutant of claim 1 wherein the species-dependent antibody is a human antibody.
- 13. The antibody mutant of claim 1 which comprises a heavy chain variable domain comprising the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:17.

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- 14. A method for producing an antibody mutant comprising substituting an amino acid residue in a hypervariable region of a species-dependent antibody, wherein the antibody mutant has a binding affinity for an antigen from a nonhuman mammal which is at least about 10 fold stronger than the binding affinity of the species-dependent antibody for said antigen.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the substituted amino acid residue is one which has been identified as being involved in binding the antigen is from the nonhuman mammal.
- 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the substituted amino acid residue is one which has been identified as being involved in binding a homologue of the antigen from the mammal, where the homologue is from a human.
- 17. A method for making an antibody mutant, comprising the steps of:

(a) identifying hypervariable region residues in a species-dependent antibody which are involved in binding an antigen from a first mammalian species and those hypervariable region residues involved in binding a homologue of the antigen from a second different mammalian species;

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- (b) preparing a mutant of the species-dependent antibody wherein a residue identified in (a) as being involved in binding the antigen from the first mammalian species or the homologue thereof, or both, is replaced by another amino acid residue; and
- (c) selecting an antibody mutant prepared as in (b) which has a stronger binding affinity for the antigen from the second mammalian species than the species-dependent antibody.
- 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the first mammalian species is a human.
- 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the second mammalian species is a nonhuman mammal.
- 20. The method of claim 17 wherein step (b) involves preparing a mutant of the species-dependent antibody wherein a residue identified in (a) as being involved in binding the homologue, but not the antigen from the first mammalian species, is replaced by another amino acid residue.
- 21. The method of claim 17 wherein step (b) involves preparing a mutant of the species-dependent antibody wherein a residue identified in (a) as being involved in binding both the antigen from the first mammalian species and the homologue thereof is replaced by another amino acid residue.
- 22. The method of claim 17 wherein step (b) involves preparing a mutant of the species-dependent antibody wherein a residue identified in (a) as being involved in binding the antigen from the first mammalian species, but not the homologue thereof, is replaced by another amino acid residue.
- 23. Isolated nucleic acid encoding the antibody mutant of claim 1.
- 24. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 23.
- 25. A host cell transformed with the vector of claim 24.

- 26. A process of producing an antibody mutant comprising culturing the host cell of claim 25 so that the nucleic acid is expressed.
- 27. The process of claim 26 further comprising recovering the antibody mutant from the host cell culture.
- 28. The process of claim 27 wherein the antibody mutant is recovered from the host cell culture medium.